

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/828,408

Examiner

Suchin Parihar

Applicant(s)

LAKSHMANAN ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 1/5/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),

Paper No./Mail Date same as date of this action

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____

PAUL DINH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Paul Dinh

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/5/2007 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Henry Groth, assistant to Mr. Eric James Whitesell (Reg. #38,657), on 1/5/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims

3. **In claim 7 line 1**, replace "The computer program product" with - -The computer readable storage medium- -.

In claim 8 line 1, replace "The computer program product" with - -The computer readable storage medium- -.

In claim 9 line 1, replace "The computer program product" with - -The computer readable storage medium- -.

In claim 10 line 1, replace "The computer program product" with - -The computer readable storage medium- -.

In claim 14 line 1, replace "The computer program product" with - -The computer readable storage medium- -.

(This Examiner's amendment has been made in order to place the application in a condition for allowance)

Reasons For Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

5. Claims 1-18 are allowed because the prior art made of record fails to teach or suggest a method or computer-readable-storage-medium for verifying an incremental change to an IC design having combinations of steps/elements as recited in claims 1, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 17, and in particular, the following steps:

(f) adding all cells that have been relocated in the integrated circuit design or that have changed in cell type to the list of incremental changes;

(h) identifying and marking polygons in the generic data stream file in the integrated circuit design database included in the list of incremental changes to generate a marked integrated circuit design database that distinguishes polygons in the generic data stream file that were changed from the current state; and

(i) generating as output the marked integrated circuit design database.

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6. Claims 19 and 20 are allowable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest the following particular steps as claimed in claims 19 and 20:

(f) identifying and marking polygons in the generic data stream file in the integrated circuit design database included in the list of incremental changes to generate a marked integrated circuit design database that distinguishes polygons in the generic data stream file that were changed from the current state;

(g) generating as output the marked integrated circuit design database including translating the marked integrated circuit design database to a file in generic data stream format;

(h) applying a special rule deck to validate the marked integrated circuit design database wherein the special rule deck includes only design checks and rules applicable to the polygons in the generic data stream file that were changed from the current state.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suchin Parihar whose telephone number is 571-272-6210. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on 571-272-7483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

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applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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